



NASA Weekly Update

Week of August 7-14, 2006

8-10: NASA Announces Post Readiness Review Press Conference: NASA officials will host a news conference no earlier than 2 p.m. EDT, Wednesday, Aug. 16, following a two-day detailed assessment of the readiness of Space Shuttle Atlantis for launch. The briefing will air live on NASA TV from the Kennedy Space Center, Fla. The news conference follows the traditional Flight Readiness Review, a thorough



The STS-115 crew on the 215-foot level of the fixed service structure on Launch Pad 39B.

assessment of preparations for the mission. The Aug. 15-16 meeting is designed to produce a number of key decisions about Atlantis' mission, STS-115, including selection of an official launch date. For NASA TV streaming video, downlink and scheduling information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>. For STS-115 crew and mission information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

8-11: NASA Sets Sights on the Next Generation of Explorers: NASA's Education Office has released a new framework to work with the academic community to prepare the next generation of explorers and innovators. The Education Strategic Coordination Framework highlights agency content, people and facilities as the foundation for sponsored educational opportunities, while developing new non-traditional partnerships. For a copy of the NASA Education Strategic Coordination Framework and information about agency education programs, visit: <http://education.nasa.gov/about/strategy/index.html>.

8-9: NASA Announces Stennis Space Center Contracts: NASA's Stennis Space Center, Miss., announced two contract awards Wednesday. Mississippi Space Services, located at Stennis, received a one-year contract extension to provide facility operating services at the center. Stennis also exercised the first option on a six-year, cost-plus-award-fee contract with Sverdrup Technology, Inc., to support propulsion test operations at the center and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama.

8-7: NASA, Air Force Agree to Aeronautics Cooperation: NASA and the United States Air Force have formed an aeronautics research partnership. NASA Administrator Michael Griffin and Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne signed a Memorandum of Understanding Monday at a Pentagon ceremony. The agreement builds upon and expands on the longstanding relationship between the two organizations. The agreement is designed to ensure the free exchange of research information, reduce duplication of research, and enhance long-term research planning for both organizations. It covers areas such as advanced aircraft design, propulsion development, materials development and aviation safety. Photos of the signing ceremony will be available at: <http://www.nasa.gov/formedia>.

Weekly Status Reports



This week on the International Space Station crew members refurbished their exercise treadmill, prepared areas inside and out for an imminent expansion of their home and took a couple of special calls to discuss soccer and food in space.

Commander Pavel Vinogradov, Flight Engineer Jeff Williams and European Space Agency Astronaut Thomas Reiter are gearing up for the second space shuttle visit to the station during Expedition 13. The shuttle Atlantis, targeted to launch in a window that opens Aug. 27, will resume major orbital construction of the complex. During its mission, designated STS-115, Atlantis will deliver and install a 17.5-ton, bus-sized segment of the station's girder-like truss that includes another set of solar arrays, batteries and associated electronics.

The station crew started out the week with two days of standard maintenance work on the treadmill vibration isolation system, a special exercise treadmill located on the floor of the Zvezda living quarters module. Crews perform the maintenance task every six months to inspect the treadmill's components, replace worn items and install new bearings. The treadmill is a complex system that uses gyroscopes to stabilize itself and isolates the vibrations created by exercise from being transmitted to the station's structure, where they could disturb sensitive experiments. Extensive exercise is a daily regimen for all station crew members as one method of counteracting the effects of long exposure to weightlessness.

The crew had time set aside each day this week to pack up and prepare items that will be moved from the station to the shuttle during Atlantis' flight. In addition, ground controllers worked with the station's Canadarm2 robotic arm to prepare for the upcoming shuttle flight.

On Thursday, they moved the arm to position cameras to view markings on the station used for a graphical computer alignment aid when new components are attached. That aid, called the space vision system, will be used during Atlantis' flight to help with the attachment of the new truss section. On

Friday, controllers moved the arm to perform an early checkout of its systems, ensuring it is ready for the shuttle mission

The station crew greeted special guest calls this week. On Tuesday, the coach and players from the FC Barcelona soccer team talked with the crew as they visited NASA's Johnson Space Center prior to an exhibition game in Houston. Reiter, a soccer fan, showed the team a space soccer move during the call. On Thursday, the crew members spoke with Chef



The Expedition 13 crew shows off food packets "kicked up a notch" by Chef Emeril Lagasse

Emeril Lagasse about space food and their mission. Lagasse sent NASA several recipes that were prepared and delivered to the station aboard the last shuttle flight. The Expedition 13 crew tried the dishes this week.

For more about the crew's activities and station sighting opportunities, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/station>.



- **NET 2PM EDT, Aug 16:** STS-115 post-Flight Readiness Review Press Conference (NASA TV)
- **NET Aug 27:** Space Shuttle Atlantis STS-115 mission
- **NET Aug 31:** STEREO launch

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